

**In the Claims:**

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. **CANCELLED**

2. (Currently amended) The liquid composition of claim ~~4~~30 comprising about 0.1 % to about 2 % by weight of the near infrared absorbing agent, about 30 % by weight to about 45 % by weight of the carrier vehicle; and about 55 % by weight to about 70 % by weight of the solvent system, each based upon the total weight of the composition.

3. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~4~~30 further comprising an one or more organofunctional silane additive(s) selected from the group consisting of aminofunctional silanes, epoxyfunctional silanes and vinylfunctional silanes.

4. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 3, wherein the one or more organofunctional silane additive(s) are present in the amount of about 0.01 % to about 2 % by weight of the liquid composition.

5. **CANCELLED**

6. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~4~~30, wherein the carrier vehicle is at least one of a homopolymer or a copolymer selected from the group consisting of cellulose, polyacrylics, polyurethanes, polyesters, polyvinyls, polyamides, polyolefins, and derivatives ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

7. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 6, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises an acrylic copolymer.


8. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 7, wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises a polyurethane.

9. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~4~~30, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a water-borne carboxyl and hydroxyl functional acrylic copolymer.

10. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 9, wherein the water-borne carboxyl and hydroxyl functional acrylic copolymer has an acid number

of about 10 to about 50, a hydroxyl number of about 20 to about 50, and a number average molecular weight of about 20,000 to about 40,000.

11. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~430~~, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a copolymer formed by polymerization of monomers comprising:

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- (a) about 45 % to about 55 % by weight butyl acrylate,
  - (b) about 38 % to about 45 % by weight methylmethacrylate,
  - (c) about 4 % to about 10 % by weight hydroxyethylmethacrylate,
  - (d) about 0 % to about 8 % by weight methacrylic acid, and
  - (e) about 0 % to about 2 % by weight acrylic acid.

12. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~430~~, wherein the carrier vehicle comprises a copolymer formed by the polymerization of monomers comprising:

- (a) about 40 % to about 70 % by weight methylmethacrylate,
- (b) about 10 % to about 30 % by weight ethylacrylate,
- (c) about 20 % to about 30 % by weight ~~dimethylaminoethylmetaacrylate~~  
dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate.

13. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~430~~, wherein the solvent system comprises a ketone.

14. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 13, wherein the ketone is selected from the group consisting of acetone, and methylethylketone.

15. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 13, wherein the solvent system further comprises at least one component selected from the group consisting of alcohols, terpenes, and glycol ethers.

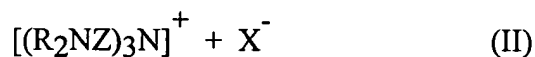
16. (Currently amended) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim ~~430~~, further comprising one or more additives selected from the group consisting of ultraviolet absorbers, flatting agents, slip agents, and pH modifiers.

17. (Original) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising;
- (a) a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):



wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; Z' is a quinoidal phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid, and

compounds of the formula (II):

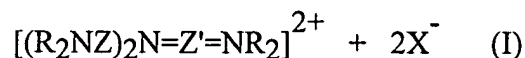


wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid;

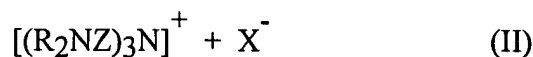
- (b) a carrier vehicle comprising a copolymer formed by polymerization of:
- (i) about 45 % to about 55 % by weight butyl acrylate,
  - (ii) about 38 % to about 45 % by weight methylmethacrylate,
  - (iii) about 4 % to about 10 % by weight hydroxyethylmethacrylate,
  - (iv) about 0 % to about 8 % by weight methacrylic acid, and
  - (v) about 0 % to about 2 % by weight acrylic acid; and
- (c) a solvent system.

18. (Original) The liquid composition for coating surfaces of claim 17, wherein the near infrared absorbing agent is present in an amount of about 0.01 % to about 2 % by weight of the composition; the carrier vehicle is present in an amount of about 20 % to about 60 % by weight of the composition; and the solvent system is present in an amount of about 40 % to about 80 % by weight of the composition.

19. (Currently Amended) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising,
- (a) a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):



wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; Z' is a quinoidal phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid, and compounds of the formula (II):



wherein R is an alkyl group of about 1 to about 6 carbon atoms; Z is a divalent phenyl which may or may not be ring substituted with one or more alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, and carboalkoxy groups; and X is an anion of a strong acid;

- (b) a carrier vehicle comprising a copolymer formed by polymerization of:

- (i) about 40 % to about 70 % by weight methylmethacrylate,
- (ii) about 10 % to about 30 % by weight ethylacrylate,
- (iii) about 20 % to about 30 % by weight ~~dimethylaminoethylmetaacrylate~~  
dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate, and

- (c) a solvent system.

20. to 29. (Previously cancelled)

30. (Re-presented in independent form; formerly claim 5) A liquid composition for coating surfaces comprising

- (a) about 0.01 % by weight to about 2 % by weight of a near infrared absorbing agent selected from the group consisting of compounds of the formula (I):

